

Homework Policy

RATIONALE

The school believes that homework is important because it encourages students to develop the habit of working on their own, to practise and develop skills and knowledge learnt in the classroom and to learn perseverance and self-discipline. It also gives parents a chance to be involved in their children's work.

AIMS

- To foster a positive attitude to study from students
- To encourage students to accept their responsibility for their own learning
- To extend students' educational experiences
- To develop independent learning skills which will be of benefit throughout life
- To give opportunities for students to experience a wider range of learning styles
- To extend the boundaries of time, space and resources afforded by classroom activities
- To encourage parental interest in their childrens' learning

OUTCOMES

Students who are self motivated, who take pride in their work and who successfully manage their own learning.

GUIDELINES

- Homework should be relevant to current work or appropriate preparation for future work.
- Teachers should aim to reinforce learning through tasks set for homework and to extend class tasks creatively and imaginatively with a view to broadening the horizons of students' knowledge and giving opportunities for individual inquiry.
- "Finishing off" work is only appropriate if it is of value in the learning process and it will take the time allocated to homework. The most able should be extended, wherever appropriate.

- Homework should be varied and differentiated.
- Teachers should ensure that students have access to appropriate resources.
- Setting homework at the very end of a lesson should be avoided whenever possible. Students need time (and some may need help) in writing coherent, helpful instructions.
- The purpose of the homework and teacher expectations should be made clear to the students when the homework is set.
- Completion of homework should be monitored regularly. For example:
 - questioning individuals about the progress of long-term tasks
 - marking, checking completed work
 - tests
 - class discussions
 - questioning students on the homework topic
- Sanctions for failure to complete homework or to present homework in an unacceptable condition should be applied consistently and fairly in accordance with departmental and whole school discipline policies. Sanctions should be used progressively: warning, break/lunchtime detention, after school detention. Parents should be kept informed where students consistently fail to produce homework.
- Students are supported in their homework practice by:
 - Homework timetable
 - Student diary, which is signed by parents and checked weekly by tutors
 - Guidance for GCSE demands
 - Homework club
 - Parents' Evening
 - Curriculum Evenings

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The Senior Leadership Team and Subject Leaders, Year Leaders and Tutors will periodically check that the homework policy is working effectively in the interests of the students' education as part of the procedures for curriculum monitoring, lesson observation, sampling exercise books and discussing their progress with students.

REVIEW

This policy has been reviewed and agreed by the Governing Body.

February 2008